

Southeast News

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New Identity Resources Ready

A new listing, United Church of Christ Identity Materials, is now available. Prepared by the Inter-Agency Evangelism Committee, the pamphlet contains listings on UCC History and Heritage, Faith and Ministry, and Mission, as well as an annotated list of diverse UCC publications. Designed for both clergy and laity, the brochure has wide use for many local church needs. Copies may be ordered from the Inter-Agency Evangelism Committee, Room 908, 287 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y., 10010, for 15c each or 10c each for 10 or more copies.

The Inter-Agency Evangelism Committee is a coordinating body with staff representation from all nine national offices and agencies of the United Church of Christ. Efforts in evangelism and other activities are shared through this committee with a view to eliminating duplication in national programming.

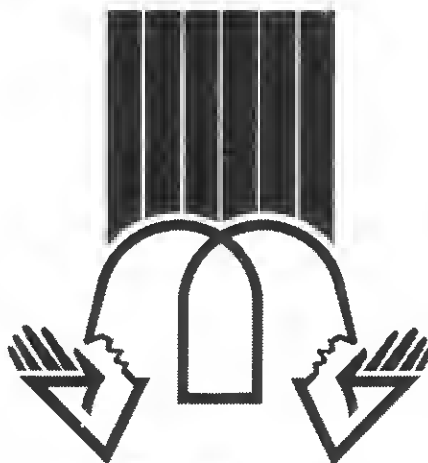
"Six American Families" to Return

Honored last season at home and abroad, "Six American Families" will return to PBS and Group W (Westinghouse) stations starting April 4 at 10:00 p.m. and every week thereafter (check local listings).

The revealing hour-long documentaries, each of which study the daily life of a particular real life family, were produced by Group W in association with the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church. Subjects of the documentary are the Pasciaks of Chicago, the Greenburgs of California, the Kennedy's of New Mexico, the Georges of NYC, the Stephens of Iowa and the Burks of rural Georgia. Taken together, the series provides what has been called "a magnificent mosaic of America."

Hailed by the San Francisco Examiner as "one of the best documentary series in recent years," "Six American Families" has been the recipient of the Gabriel

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Exploring Worship in a Congregation

LET'S WORSHIP!

The Office for Church Life and Leadership is introducing a new worship resource to the United Church of Christ. Actually a collection of resources, "Exploring Worship in a Congregation" is rooted in the affirmation that worship is a primary function of all the people of God. The material in this collection is intended to encourage and assist lay leaders and pastors in working together in planning and leading the worship life of the congregation.

"Exploring Worship in a Congregation" makes no attempt to set norms for the nature and form of worship in a particular setting. It does not tell a congregation how it should worship. Rather, it seeks to assist the congregation in studying and reflecting seriously on the traditions from which their worship life comes and encourages them to take seriously the significant responsibility which is theirs for planning and leading worship. In doing so, that central experience of the community of faith can be deepened and enriched.

This packet, first in a series, is available for \$5.00 from Church Leadership Resources, Box 179, St. Louis, Missouri 63166.

Toccoa Falls Relief Appreciated

On November 5, 1977 a dam burst at Toccoa Falls, GA resulting in the death of 39 persons at Toccoa Falls College along with massive amounts of damage to the college campus. In response, the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries forwarded \$2,000 in relief funds to the college through the Southeast Conference.

In a letter of thanks, Kenn W. Opperman, President of Toccoa Falls College, says, "While the campus family was overwhelmed beyond imagination, God moved in our behalf. He prompted people like you to assist us. We thank you for your gift. Your generosity has made easier the painful separations and the job of restoration."

RSV Bibles to Be Updated

The Revised Standard Version of the Bible, which was produced under the auspices of the National Council of Churches 25 years ago, is now being revised again and the new edition is scheduled for publication in the mid 1980's. The upcoming edition will be the most substantial revision of the RSV Bible since 1952. The reasons for revising the Bible are the same today as they were in 1929 (when the work on the present RSV Bible began), namely, some words have become archaic, and their meaning is not clear to modern readers. Also, the Dead Sea Scrolls, which were just discovered when the first edition of the RSV Bible was published, contain new information about portions of the Old Testament. Under the chairpersonship of Bruce M. Metzger of Princeton Theological Seminary, a committee of 24 Biblical Scholars meets regularly to work on this revision.

The RSV Bible has sold more copies than any other modern-language version. It is also the only Bible version approved by leaders of all three major branches of Christianity and the only version produced by a committee that includes Protestant, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Jewish scholars.

Morgan-Scott "Christmas Store": SERVICE IN ACTION

One of the most "visible" ministries of the Morgan-Scott Project is the "Christmas Store" held in December of each year. Toys and clothing articles accumulated through contributions of churches in the Morgan-Scott area and throughout the Alabama-Tennessee Association, are offered to needy families who otherwise could give their children little or nothing for Christmas. Families to which this ministry is offered are each screened for need and then given a private appointment to pick out gifts for their families. Gifts carry a small price tag to enable needy families to purchase gifts "with dignity." In lieu of money, IOU's are accepted. Proceeds go to the Mission Fund for fire and other emergency relief.

This year the Christmas Store had 3 locations: Deer Lodge, Robbins and Oakdale, Tennessee. The three stores served 130 needy families, comprising 650 people, 447 of which were children and over 200 of which were adults.

"One of the most exciting things about the Christmas Store," said Rev. Randy Gehres, local UCC minister, "is that the people who were recipients of this ministry in past years helped to organize it and make it work this year."

UNDER THE RAINBOW

Sometimes the most valuable resources are not "over the rainbow," but "under the rainbow," right in front of our very eyes. This is the case with "The Church Finance Advisory Service" of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.

The Church Finance Advisory Service assists local congregations in raising capital funds for new church buildings, renovations and debt reduction. As a result of this assistance, not only are financial goals realized, but lay commitment to the local church is also increased! Staff members are willing, at no cost or obligation to a local congregation, to come and present the program of the Church Finance Advisory Service.

For further information, write: Office of Church Building, UCBHM, United Church of Christ, 287 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10010.

CHANGES

The Rev. Ms. Yvonne Delk, ordained minister of the Eastern Virginia Association, Southern Conference, who has been on the staff of the UCC Board for Homeland Ministries, became Associate for Constituency Development of the UCC Office for Church in Society effective February 1, 1978.

St. John's Raises \$500 for OGHS

St. John's United Church, Cullman, AL., raised over \$500 for the One Great Hour of Sharing all-church offering. According to minister George Fidler, "What we did was challenge everybody to fast from Saturday night at 5:00 to Sunday night at 5:00. They were to take the money they saved by not eating breakfast and lunch on Sunday and put it in the OGHS envelopes along with what they had already planned to give. We got \$491.00 and I commented to one of my working teenagers how much we had received and he said: 'No you didn't; you got \$500.00' and he handed me a \$10.00 bill."

Congratulations to the St. John's congregation for such excellent giving!

ALIVE!

The production of the Easter filmstrip, **ALIVE!**, is an example of how the Office for Audio-Visuals of the United Church of Christ serves you. More than 1,100 churches have purchased copies of this filmstrip.

ALIVE! was produced because the Office for Audio-Visuals could find no suitable filmstrip produced by anyone else to recommend to U.C.C. churches for Lenten-Easter use. Even though **ALIVE!** was produced in a very short time, with only two staff people working on the project, and with very little budget, it has become a success.

ALIVE! vividly tells and sings the Easter story in a way that children, youth, and adults can all understand. It ends with a dramatic visual portrayal of the familiar Easter Hymn, "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," with words on the screen so viewers can sing along.

The 15-minute filmstrip with recording sells for \$12.00 and can be purchased from the Office for Audio-Visuals, United Church of Christ, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.

Six Families . . .

[Continued from Page 1]

Awards and has received top honors from the Chicago Film Festival and the International Christian Film Festival, in Montreux, Switzerland.

Publicity and study materials for the series may be ordered from "Six American Families," 1525 McGavock Street, Nashville, TN 37203. "Six American Families" may also be purchased or rented from Carousel Films, 1501 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10036.

PASTORS WILL RECEIVE STUDY

The Executive Council of the United Church of Christ has voted to make the book, **Human Sexuality, A Preliminary Study**, and the study guide that accompanies it, available free of charge to all pastors of the United Church of Christ.

The books and study guides should be mailed shortly, if they have not already been received. They will also be sent free of charge to Instrumentality Executives and Chairpersons, Conference Staff, and General Synod Delegates.

Other UCC clergy can receive a free copy of each by sending their request to the Secretary of the United Church of Christ, 297 Park Avenue S., New York, N.Y. 10010.

The book was received by the 1977 General Synod to be sent to churches, Associations, Conferences and Instrumentalities for their study and response. A study guide has been developed for use with the book.

Additional copies may be ordered from United Church Press, Room 40, 297 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10010. Until May 1, the cost will be \$3.95 for the book and \$1.50 for the study guide. The price of the book will then increase to \$4.95. Payment by check should accompany orders.

Overseas Posts Need Filling

The United Church Board for World Ministries needs interested ministers and lay persons for overseas opportunities. Candidates for the position will be considered without respect to race or sex.

Two pastors are needed to serve 3-5 year terms in Botswana and one or more for Zambia. Candidates for these positions should have training and experience in serving in urban situations, for the openings are in developing urban areas.

There are openings in Turkey for teachers of English, Mathematics and Science for terms of 2-5 years. There is also an opening for a teacher of English with TEFL (Teacher of English as a Foreign Language) training for a period of 12-18 weeks.

Persons interested in any of these positions are encouraged to call or write:

Overseas Personnel Office
Board for World Ministries
475 Riverside Drive
New York, N.Y. 10027
Ph: 212-870-2711

Professional Development Retreat Held

A Professional Development Planning Retreat, in which 12 Southeast Conference ministers participated, was held at the Lanett Congregational-Christian Church, UCC, Lanett, AL from January 23-26. Leadership was provided by Rev. Tom Brown from Lancaster Theological Seminary, a UCC seminary located in Lancaster, PA.

Participants were enthusiastic about the benefits of the retreat. Thanks were expressed to members of the Lanett church who made their homes available for overnight accommodations for participants, and to the Office for Church Life and Leadership for their financial assistance.

The Professional Development Planning Retreat is a workshop designed to help ministers make career evaluations and assess vocational strengths and weaknesses. It is recommended for all ministers with three or more years of experience.



Pictured [l-r] are Southeast Conference officials, W.A. Blankenhorn, Associate Conference Minister; W.J. Andes, Conference Minister; Milton Hurst, Moderator of the General Synod, UCC, and David Beebe, SEC Moderator. Christian Church in Georgia officials are: Dr. George Wascovich, Moderator; Rev. E. Lyle Harvey, Regional Minister, and Rev. Ann Beach, Assistant Regional Minister.

UCC — Disciples Conversations Continue

A second meeting between representatives of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia and representatives of the Southeast Conference, UCC was held on January 16 at Peachtree Christian Church in Atlanta. One of many nationwide meetings held on a judicatory level, the purpose of the meetings is to enable familiarity between local Disciples and UCC congregations prior to any formal union conversations on the national level of the two denominations.

Response to the meeting was excellent. Assignments were made for Disciples groups - parallel to our committees in the Southeast Conference - to draft preliminary papers on ways in which the Southeast Conference and the Georgia Christian Church can cooperate. In addition, it was urged that local congregation within the Southeast Conference contact and seek to related to Disciples churches within their locality.

The next meeting between the Southeast Conference and the Christian Church (Disciples) in Georgia has been set for April 17 at First Congregational Church, UCC in Atlanta.

With both the Christian Church (Disciples) and the United Church of Christ scheduled to hold their national assemblies in the summer and fall of 1979, the next 12 to 18 months must be used constructively on both a local and national

level to ensure further positive action on union conversations.



Pictured above are representatives of the Southeast Conference and Christian Church [Disciples] in Georgia at their first meeting in September, 1977.

Winter Youth Rally Enjoyed

Some 48 youth and adult advisors attended a rally of the East Alabama-West Georgia Association on February 11, 1978 at the Oak Grove Congregational-Christian Church, UCC, in Pine Mountain, GA. Representatives were present from five churches: Phenix City, Lanett, Langdale, LaGrange United and Oak Grove.

Following an opening fellowship service, Rev. Warner Knowles and Rev. Claude Shumate led a discussion on decision-making. After a period of recreation a business meeting was held for election of officers and other business. Officers elected to lead the Association Youth were: President — Scoot Rhodes, Phenix City; Vice President — Robin Roland, Phenix City; and Secretary — Larry Thompson, Oak Grove. In additional business, May 5-7 was adopted as the date for the Senior Youth Camp and dues for future rallies were set at 50c per person.

After further discussion, the youth enjoyed a meal prepared by the Oak Grove Men and Womens Fellowship. Many thanks to Oak Grove Church for sponsoring the rally.

Larry Thompson,
Secretary

Ala-Tenn Camp Re-Scheduled

Due to snow, the Alabama-Tennessee Association youth Mini-Camp scheduled for the weekend of February 3-5 was postponed until the weekend of March 3-5. Some 45-50 young people are expected to attend that event.

Two other Association-wide youth events are planned for this spring. The first of these will be a "Pop-in" at Nashville, Tennessee sponsored by the Nashville, UCC churches for the weekend of March 31 to April 2.

The second event will be a spring Mini-Camp to be hosted by Chattanooga Pilgrim Church and to be held at a camp near Chattanooga on the weekend of May 5-7. Information concerning these latter two events will be forthcoming soon.

Youth groups are reminded that dues suggested at \$2.00 per member should be forwarded to the Association Office as soon as possible to help cover the cost of publication and communication expenses. Many thanks to those groups who have already forwarded their dues!



REV. EUGENE HENDERSON

HENDERSON NEW PASTOR AT HEADLAND, BLACKWOOD

The Rev. and Mrs. Eugene Henderson have moved into the parsonage at the Blackwood Congregational Christian Church, Headland, AL, where he has been pastor since November 1, 1977.

A student at Baptist Bible Institute, Mr. Henderson and his wife moved from Graceville, Fla., home of BBI, for his first pastorate. He is a native of Andalusia.

Some significant features of a renewed church program at Blackwood are:

1. Offerings are better than a year ago. Four members are giving \$100 a month.
2. Monthly Fellowship suppers.
3. Long-Range Planning Committee elected Jan. 31 for building and improvement.
4. Repairs to Community Building.
5. A "Pounding" for the minister and his wife as they moved into a long-vacant parsonage.

EVCOM for Your Local Church

EVCOM is short for Evangelism/Communication. It points up the continuing relationship between sharing the Good News and the variety of communication techniques available to the church today.

Over the past two years, more than 500 persons have received training in practical skills as a result of attending EVCOM workshops sponsored by our UCC Office of Communication. EVCOM workshops are organized primarily by our denomination's Office of Communication and serve participants from 20 other participating church groups, including two Roman Catholic orders.

In the Southeast Conference, an EVCOM Workshop will be held at Atlanta, GA April 7-9. For further details please write or call Conference Minister, W.J. Andes.

Even if you cannot attend the workshop, the following materials — which have been prepared for this project — can be ordered:

—"How To Increase Your Church's Membership Through Advertising," 20 pages, 50c.

—"A Manual on Church Newsletters," 8 pages, 50c

—"How-to Manual on Newspapers," 24 pages, 50c

—"How-to Telephone," 12 pages, 50c

—"Handbook on Church Public Relations," \$2.00

—"The Jaeger Letter (How to write a letter)," 25c

—"How-to Produce a Good Press Release," 5c

These materials are all available from:

EVCOM, Room 94
289 Park Avenue South
New York, N.Y. 10010

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"Come, Let Us Reason Together" — The Role of the General Synod

The Eleventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ which met in Washington, D.C. in July of 1977 has now entered the annals of history and delegates are reporting to churches.

It is obvious that we still do not understand the role of a General Synod in our system. It is an elected body of delegates, lay and clergy — predominantly lay, and all members of our local congregations — which has responsibility to evaluate and guide the work of our fellowship on a national level; to maintain and nourish the household of the United Church of Christ; to address itself to issues and concerns which go beyond the capacities of the smaller units of the church; and to exercise the function of prophetic leadership in keeping with the dictates of conscience.

It is not an instructed assembly or a "rubber-stamp" parliament for anyone, national agencies, local congregations or conferences so that in the glorious liberty of the daughters and sons of God, we may find ourselves at times in disagreement with some of its actions or pronouncements. We have that freedom in our tradition. It is not a mere echo of our regional interests or our own insights, so that it will often challenge us to see things from another angle. We have that responsibility if we seek to be responsible members of the universal church. It does not attempt to speak "for" us; no one can speak for the nearly two million members of the United Church of Christ. Beware of headlines in the secular press which erroneously suggest that it does. It does have the responsibility to speak "to" us to ask us to confront concerns which may not disturb our equanimity but which do cause anguish concern to other members of the household of faith. I, for one, rejoice that it has the courage to speak out on controversial issues even though I may find myself in disagreement with some of its conclusions.

We have some responsibilities as members of the body of Christ. We have the responsibility to protect the rights of others to speak their conscience. We have the responsibility to seek the truth of what they say and do. Contrary to some published reports, sex did not dominate the proceedings of the General Synod and the General Synod simply did not advocate the ordination of homosexual persons. We have the responsibility to take seriously the findings and the concerns of other groups of Christians.

Truth is never simple or easy, especially



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC, CROSSVILLE, TENNESSEE

— AROUND THE CONFERENCE — First Church, Crossville, Tenn.

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Kentucky, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ "may all be one."

Representing the northern sector of our Conference is First Congregational Church, UCC in Crossville, Tennessee. Founded in 1887, First Congregational Church served as a community church for those of all denominations in what was a tiny mountain settlement of that day. Since that time the church has held continuous religious services and has served as an educational as well as a cultural center.

Completed in 1888, the original church structure served both as a church and as

the first "free" school in the area. It was also the site for community and social meetings throughout a span of 75 years.

In 1962, a handsome church of modern design was built on the outskirts of a rapidly growing Crossville, and the members celebrated its 75th anniversary with a special observance and dedication ceremony. The social room of the church was appropriately named "Nightingale Hall" in honor of Rev. Abram Nightingale who had served as pastor of the church for 32 years.

With some 150 members, the church continues as the site of weekly worship services and church school, and has hosted community concerts, an inter-denominational discussion groups for couples, a kindergarten and many civic meetings.

Rev. William Winterbottom is the pastor and has served in that capacity for the past 16 years.

not in this complex age; but it is our calling as members of the body of Christ to seek it together. We are a community of faith called "to reason together". This does not presume that we shall necessarily find ourselves in perfect agreement, but it does mean that we shall extend mutual respect and a stance of openness and a willingness to listen to one another as we struggle in covenant to be faithful to the ministry of Jesus Christ for our time.

—Otto E. Sommer,
Maine Conference Minister

CONGRATULATIONS!

A son of the Lanett congregation, Rev. J. C. Dollar, has been appointed Associate Executive Director of the Elon Home for Children, in Elon College, N.C.

"J.C.", as he is affectionately known, has served for several years as Program Director at the home. His promotion to "second in command" is a real tribute to his dedication and ability.

Franklin Thomas to Work for State of Georgia

Former Moderator of Southeast Conference, Franklin Thomas of Atlanta, has been tapped for Deputy Commissioner of the State Merit System, placing him in a strategic state Capitol post.

Thomas stated that he accepted the job precisely because improving job opportunities for minorities is the special role assigned him by Governor Busbee and Charles Storm, Merit System commissioner. He feels that Gov. Busbee has a strong commitment to broaden the participation of all citizens in state government.

A veteran personnel executive, Thomas has had a broad experience in personnel management for most of his professional career. He started out at Atlanta's Butler Street YMCA, then became personnel director for the national "Y" in New York City in 1969. A couple years later, he returned to Atlanta as Personnel Director for the City. He returned to his old "Y" job in New York in 1974, but returned in 1976 as personnel director for MARTA — Metro Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority. His family remained in Atlanta all the time.

Thomas says, "Whatever your desire to improve opportunities for minorities, it's extremely important that you do what you do without sacrificing standards in employment."

"I think that's what Busbee is attempting to do."

Competence comes first, he thinks, and you can't lower standards or politicize the employment rolls.

He has the personal conviction that however awesome the challenge, progress should be possible simply because the social and political climate in Georgia today is conducive to progress.

Franklin Thomas has been of tremendous service to the Southeast Conference, serving as Moderator of the Conference, 1976-77 representing the Conference at national meetings, and personnel work of the Conference. He was National President of Laymen, as well as head of the Lay Life and Work segment of the Church (UCC). We are proud that he is one of us.



The Western Cluster: [l-r] Norman Steinig, Watson's Chapel; George Hawkins, Montgomery First; Ed Lauderdale, Dadeville-Elder; J.K. Murphy, Alexander City First; James McAdams, East Tallassee.

NEWS NOTES

Congratulations to Rev. Woody and wife Angie Clark at the birth of their first child, Woodfin Bruce Clark III on Feb. 7, 1978. Angie serves as Secretary of the Board of Directors, Southeast Conference and Woody is pastor of First Congregational-Christian Church, Andalusia, AL.

Some 13 North Alabama ministers, interested lay persons and Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, Associate Conference Minister, met at Caddo Church January 28, 1978 for fellowship and for discussion of the work that needs to be done in the Association. Their next meeting is March 18, 1978 at Caddo.

Our condolences to the family of Elder Irvin Hadley who died on Nov. 30, 1977. Mr. Hadley was a member of Evergreen Congregational Church, UCC in Beachton, GA. where he served as a deacon until his death.

Services for Larkin T. French

Mr. Larkin T. French, brother of Rev. Joe French, Roanoke, AL. died at his home on January 5, 1978. He was 70 years of age. The interment service was conducted by the Rev. Joe French.

Western Cluster Formed

The ministers of the Western churches of the Southern Alabama Area Council have organized themselves into the "Western Cluster" and will meet on a monthly basis for fellowship, support and the sharing of mutual concerns. Organized on January 21, 1978 at the Talsi Hotel, Tallassee, AL. the group represents ministers from Montgomery First, Dadeville, Elder, East Tallassee, Watson's Chapel (Eclectic), and Alexander City First, churches.

Rev. George Hawkins is serving as Convener and Rev. Ed Lauderdale is Recorder.

Conference Office Loans Audio-Visuals

The Southeast Conference has an extensive listing of audio-visuals available for loan to the churches of the Southeast Conference.

The only cost involved is the return postage, and this is small because of the low rate for library materials.

For a list of the materials available or for other information — or to borrow a particular item, write:

Mrs. Juanita Velasco
P. O. Box 29883
Atlanta, Ga. 30359